

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1244**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Adams**

February 23, 2007

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An act to amend Section 21115 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1244, as introduced, Adams. Golf carts.

Existing law authorizes a city or county to designate a highway or a portion of a highway under its jurisdiction that is located adjacent to, or provides access to, a specifically described golf course, for the combined use of regular vehicular traffic and golf carts.

This bill would extend this authority to the designation by a city or county of a highway, or portion of a highway, for combined vehicle and golf cart usage of a highway that is located adjacent to, or provides access to, a public or private university or college or a retirement community.

The bill would impose equipment requirements for golf carts driven upon a highway pursuant to those authorizations.

Because a violation of the equipment requirements and the associated rules and regulations adopted by the local authority would be an infraction, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program by creating new crimes.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 21115 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

21115. (a) ~~If a local authority finds that a highway under its jurisdiction is located adjacent to, or provides access to, a golf course and between the golf course and the place where golf carts are parked or stored or is within or bounded by a real estate development offering golf facilities and is designed and constructed, so as to safely permit the use of regular vehicular traffic and also the driving of golf carts on the highway, the~~ A local authority may, by resolution or ordinance, designate ~~the~~ a highway or portion of the highway for ~~the~~ combined use of regular vehicular traffic and golf carts and prescribe rules and regulations that shall have the force of law~~;~~, *if the local authority finds that the highway under its jurisdiction is located adjacent to, or provides access to, either of the following:*

(1) *A golf course and between the golf course and the place where golf carts are parked or stored or is within or bounded by a real estate development offering golf facilities and is designed and constructed so as to safely permit the use of regular vehicular traffic and also the driving of golf carts on the highway.*

(2) *A public or private university or college or a retirement community if the maintenance or security of the campus or community requires employees of that campus or that community to travel on the highway with golf carts, and the highway is suitable to safely permit the use of regular vehicular traffic and also the driving of golf carts.*

~~(No)~~

(b) A highway shall *not* be so designated for a distance of more than one mile from the golf course if the highway is not located within a development, *campus, or community* or beyond the area of a development, *campus, or community*, provided, the finding of the local authority in this respect shall be conclusive. Upon the designation becoming effective it shall be lawful to drive golf carts *equipped with a windshield, headlights, taillights, brakelights, turn signals, and seat belts* upon the highway in accordance with

1 the prescribed rules and regulations. The rules and regulations may  
2 establish crossing zones and speed limits and other operating  
3 standards but shall not require that the golf carts conform to any  
4 requirements of this code with respect to registration, licensing,  
5 or equipment, except that if operated during darkness the golf cart  
6 shall be subject to the provisions of Section 24001.5 regarding  
7 equipment.

8 ~~The~~

9 *(c) The rules and regulations described in subdivisions (a) and*  
10 *(b) shall not be effective until appropriate signs giving notice*  
11 *thereof are posted along the highway affected.*

12 ~~A~~

13 *(d) A “real estate development offering golf facilities,” for*  
14 *purposes of this section, means an area of single-family or*  
15 *multiple-family residences, the owners or occupants of which are*  
16 *eligible for membership in, or the use of, one or more golf courses*  
17 *within the development by virtue of their ownership or occupancy*  
18 *of a residential dwelling unit in the development.*

19 ~~(b)~~

20 *(e) For purposes of this section, a “golf cart” includes a*  
21 *low-speed vehicle.*

22 *(f) For purposes of this section, “campus” means the grounds*  
23 *and buildings of a university or college.*

24 *(g) For purposes of this section, a “retirement community” is*  
25 *a housing arrangement chosen voluntarily by a person 60 years*  
26 *of age or older, or chosen by an authorized representative of that*  
27 *person, where varying levels of care and services may be provided*  
28 *to that person.*

29 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
30 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
31 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
32 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
33 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
34 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
35 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
36 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
37 Constitution.

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